(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c): Government of Karnataka have proposed the setting up of export Processing Zones at Banglore and Mangalore. They have been informed that at the moment there is no proposal to set up additional Export Processing Zones.

India Growth Fund

*545. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Growth Fund registered an investment loss during the period of six months ending December 31, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c): Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Indo-Nepalese Trade

*546 SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
DR. PARASHURAM GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give assistance to Nepal to promote Indo-Nepalese economic cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the potential areas for joint industrial ventures identified by the Government; and

(d) the other steps taken to further improve the trade relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b): Besides the preferential arrangements governing Indo-Nepalese bilateral trade, Government provides assistance to Nepal in sectors such as hydel and power, public health, communication, civil aviation, tourism, etc. to promote economic cooperation.

(c)The potential areas identified for joint industrial ventures include industries for producing cement, paper, sugar, other agro-industries and projects related to rural development and employment generation in rural areas.

(d) The efforts to strengthen the preferential trade regime and export promotion activities such as participation in fairs/exhibitions, exchange of delegations, seminars, etc. are measures to further promote bilateral trade.

Demand of Commercial vehicles Abroad

*547 SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of commercial vehicles in India are less as compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the countries which have shown interest in importing such vehicles from India during 1991-92; and

(d) the commercial vehicles proposed to be exported during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b): Prices at which India exports commercial vehicles are different in different markets and also vary from vehicle to vehicle. India has succeeded in exporting some varieties of heavy, medium and light commercial vehicles since such supplies were competitive in terms of price, quality and other conditions governing such export vis-a-vis other exporting countries. Factors which have made such exports competitive include conducive Government export policy, availability of cheap labour and skilled manpower, large production volumes of such vehicles in the country and export effort on the part of the industry.

(c) The countries where Indian Commercial Vehicles were exported during 1991-92 are: Abu Dhabi, Afghanistan, Albania, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Dubai, France, Ghana, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, malawi, Malta, Morocco, Mozambique, Malaysia, Mauritious, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad, Uganda, U.A.E., Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

(d) Several types of commercial vehicles including heavy, medium and light vehicles as also custom-built vehicles as also custom-built vehicles are proposed to be exported during 1992-93.

Road Bonds

*548 SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from State Government to issue Road Bonds for improving and developing bridges and State Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c): Yes, Sir. However, at present only Public Sector Undertakings wholly owned by the Union Government are eligible to float bonds.

Assistance to Gujarat from Central Road Fund

*549 SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA:
SHRI RATILAL VERMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to Gujarat for the development of roads from the Central Road Fund during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the schemes for which the funds were provided, year-wise; and

(c) the progress made in the completion of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b): During the year 1989-90 and 1991-91, no scheme was approved under Central Road Fund. However, during 1991-92, the following two works have been approved:-